



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OCT 16 2019

OFFICE OF CHEMICAL SAFETY
AND POLLUTION PREVENTION

Via Email and U.S. Mail

Mr. Gary Marshall
Chairman
Triazine Network

Chief Executive Officer
Missouri Corn Growers Association
3118 Emerald Lane
Jefferson City, MO 65109

Dear Mr. Marshall and the Triazine Network:

I want to thank the Missouri Corn Growers Association and the Triazine Network for meeting with us and bringing to my attention your concerns, as expressed during the public comment period, regarding EPA's 2016 Draft Atrazine Ecological Risk Assessment. Please be assured that we are carefully evaluating all comments submitted during the public comment phase of the atrazine registration review and our responses will be docketed along with the Preliminary Interim Decision, planned for signature this calendar year.

Specifically, in terms of the Triazine Network's comments regarding risk to birds, fish, and amphibians, EPA agrees that studies submitted by the registrant after the completion of the draft ecological risk assessment, as well as those recently published in the open literature, should be considered. One example we discussed was an atrazine-specific avian dermal absorption study. In general, EPA agrees that chemical-specific data are more appropriate than extrapolating data across chemicals. We also discussed revising the dose-response slope for acute effects to birds.

EPA will be evaluating the currently available ecological effects and exposure data for use in the draft Endangered Species Act (ESA) biological evaluation that is being prepared for an August 2020 release with a subsequent public comment period. Given the schedule by which EPA must publish its draft biological evaluation for atrazine, it is in that assessment where EPA will more fully integrate the input received during the public comment period for the draft ecological risk assessment conducted for the registration review decision under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act. For the biological evaluation, EPA will be considering options for a quantitative analysis to establish an endpoint for birds, fish and amphibians and weight of evidence approaches presented both in the public comment period and any recent guidance from EPA. We commit to using the best available data regarding quality and relevance for future analysis.

EPA's Response to Comment and Preliminary Interim Decision documents on atrazine will acknowledge receipt of the additional studies and state the plan for incorporating the data, as appropriate, into the ESA biological evaluation.

Thank you again for your contributions to the public process for the registration review of atrazine.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alexandra Dapolito Dunn', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Alexandra Dapolito Dunn, Esq.
Assistant Administrator